the multinational companies for parallel marketing of LPG;

(b) whether it is also a fact that PSUs are offering their port facilities to the MNCs;

(c) if so, whether Indian companies will also be permitted port facilities; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The Joint Venture companies LPG-Caltex Ltd. and Bharat-Shell Pvt. Ltd. have plans to undertake activities under the Parallel Marketing System.

(b) and (c) The Oil Companies are offering their facilities for import and storage of LPG to any parallel marketeer on commercial terms, subject to availability of spare capacity.

(d) Does not arise.

Hike in prices of some petroleum Products

2451. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a hike in the prices of Motor Spirit (MS), high speed diesel (HSD) and light diesel oil (LDO);

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with this hike the oil pool account is expected to show a surplus by the end of financial year 1993-94; and

(d) if so, to what extent and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the current prices of petroleum products, the fulll costs of operatitn involving exploration, production, processing and marketing are not being recovered.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Opposition of Government's decontrol plan by private and joint sector

2452. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new refineries proposed in the private and joint sectors, who have already been issued licences are threatening to withdraw from the scene if Government goes ahead with its decontrol plan;

(b) if so, what are details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government under pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have worked out a plan to decontrol this sector; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Joint venture of IOC and mobil petroleum company

2453. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation and Mobil Petroleum company of USA have signed an agreement for formation of a joint venture company; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement including authorised capital and the shares of the two units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA); (a) and (b) An agreement